Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph on page 10, line 29 through page 11, line 14 and replace with the following amended paragraph:

As described above, the surfactant compositions of the present invention provide a hydrophilic coating to the surface or substrate to which it has been applied. Such hydrophilic character may provide the coated surface with certain functional capabilities that may be desirable for a particular application. For example, if the surfactant coating is applied to the surface of a fluid transport control film of a diagnostic device, the surfactant coating may improve the rate or extent to which the fluid control film is able to receive a liquid sample. The surfactant coating also can improve the speed, uniformity and consistency of the flow of the liquid sample from a fluid receiving portion of the fluid control film to a diagnostic or analytical portion of the fluid control film. The surfactant compositions of the present invention also can provide a hydrophilic coating that retains its hydrophilic character and at the same time provides a surface that allows for good adhesion to wide range of adhesives, including pressure sensitive adhesives such as acrylic and block copolymer adhesives such as ~~Kraton~~ KRATON based adhesives. A simple check for good adhesion is performed by adhering double-sided tape (Product no. 315, available from 3M, St. Paul, MN) to the film, adhering this to a second substrate such as glass, aging at 23C and 50% relative humidity for 7 days and checking for adhesion. The preferred samples of the present invention remain adhered for longer than 21 weeks.

Please delete the paragraphs on page 15, line 1 through page 15, line 23 and replace with the following amended paragraphs:

Several electronic components was used to record and time the image of blood sample as it filled the capillary chamber of the sensor: Casablanca video editing system with a removable hard drive, Sony ~~Trinitron~~ TRINITRON monitor, ~~Horita~~ HORITA time stamp generator, ~~Panasonic~~ PANASONIC Digital 5000 video Camera, ~~Mitsubishi~~ MITSUBISHI VCR, and a ~~Dyna~~ DYNA Fiber Optic Light.

The removable hard drive was placed into the Video Editing System and the electronic components listed above were turned on. The 'display' key was pressed to start the timer. A strip from the ~~Accu-Chek~~ ACCU-CHEK Advantage meter was placed under the camera. The 'edit' button was selected from the main menu on the

video editing system. Next, the 'record' button was selected and the image from the camera appeared. The lighting was adjusted by turning the adjustment knob on the fiber optic light source. The image of the sensor was focused using the macro ring and lens on the video camera. The time stamp was checked for format (typically SS:TH) and to determine that it was running. Using a ~~Rainin~~ RAININ pipette for the appropriate sample volume (2.0 μL for NWS-V type sensors, 1.0 μL for Crusader type sensors), this volume was withdrawn from the tube of mixed whole blood. The tip of the pipette was wiped using a ~~Kimwipe~~ KIMWIPE wipe and the plunger depressed to form a hanging drop. The video editing system was started by selecting the 'record' button with the left mouse button. The sensor was immediately dosed by touching the blood drop to the middle of a sensor portion of the test strip. The 'stop' button was pressed with the left mouse button. Each clip was labeled automatically by the video editing system with an ID starting with the letter S and followed by incremental numbers indicating the slide number. A log sheet was used to record sample volume, hematocrit, and sensor ID. The process was repeated until all of the sensors were filled and recorded.

Please delete the paragraph at page 16, lines 9-11 and replace with the following amended paragraph:

The results indicated that a combination of the DYNOL 604 ethoxylated acetylenic diol~~, Dynol™ 604~~ and the ~~Rhodacal~~ RHODACAL DS10 surfactant was very stable. The fill time of Example 1 remained the same or decreased after 1 week of aging at each temperature tested.

Please delete the Glossary table on page 13 and replace with the following amended Glossary table:

Acronym	Trade Name	Chemical Description	Source/Address
Reagent 1			Roche Diagnostics/ Indianapolis, IN
Reagent 2			Roche Diagnostics
	~~Dynol™ 604~~ DYNOL 604	ethoxylated acetylenic diol	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA.
	~~Surynol™ 465~~	ethoxylated	Air Products and

	SURYNOL 465	acetylenic diols	Chemicals, Inc.
	Tagat™ L2 TAGAT L2	Polyoxyethylene glycerol monolaurate	Degussa-Goldschmidt/ Hopewell, VA
	~~Lambent™ 703~~ LAMBENT 703	silicone copolyol	Lambent Technologies/ Fernandina Beach, FL
	~~Zonyl™ FSN~~ ZONYL FSN	Fluorochemical surfactants – nonionic (40% solids)	E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co./ Wilmington, DE
	~~Polystep™ A16~~ POLYSTEP A16	Sodium branched alkyl benzene sulfonate	Stepan Company/ Northfield, IL
	~~Aerosol™ OT~~ AEROSOL OT	Dioctyl ester of sodium sulfosuccinic acid	Cytec Industries/ West Patterson, NJ
FC95	~~Fluorad™ 95~~ FLUORAD 95	Potassium perfluoroalkyl sulfonates – anionic (100%)	3M Company/ St. Paul, MN

Please delete the Table 1a on page 14 and replace with the following amended Table 1a:

Table 1a. Composition of Coating Solutions			
Coating Composition No.	Solvent IPA/ Water 70/30 (wt. %)	Surfactant ~~Dynol™~~ DYNOL 604 (weight percent)	Stabilizer ~~Rhodacal™~~ RHODACAL DS10 (weight percent)
1	99.2	0.6	0.2

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 7 and replace with the following paragraph:

Preparation of Coated Substrate: Composition 1 was coated onto a polyester plastic film (commercially available as ~~Melinex™~~ MELINEX 454 from E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware) using the reverse Gravure roll method

with knurled roll (Tool reference #34, cell count of 150, Parmarco Inc., Batavia, IL) with a pitch of 150 (volume factor of 0.89). The roll to line speed ratio was maintained at 2:1 or 1.5:1. After coating, the solution was dried in an oven (10 foot Air Flow oven, part of Hirano Coater, Hirano Co., Japan) at 75°C. The uniformity of the coating was checked visually when the coating was still wet and then by applying a drop of water every ½ inch to 1 inch across the web and noticing the diameter and wicking characteristics of the drop. The thickness of the dry coating was determined using a Scanning Electron Microscopy (Hitachi model S-4500 field emission SEM (FESEM)). The thickness of the dry coating varied from 60 nm to 200 nm.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 13 and replace with the following paragraph:

Water Contact Angle Measurements: Water Contact Angle Measurements were used to monitor the changes in surface wetting characteristics of coated films. These films were cut into 8 by 70 mm strips, stored at 25°C, 32°C, and 45°C for 0, 1, 3, 6, 9, 13, 21, 26, 39, 52, 78, and 104 weeks in storage vials (Glass with screw cap tops containing ~~Teflon™~~TEFLON-coated liners (~~Teflon™~~TEFLON-coated side of liner was always oriented towards inside of jar.), 40 mL (I-Chem/VWR#IRC236-0040)), and subjected to water contact angle measurements. Water (Type I) contact angles were determined using video contact angle analyses (commercially available as First Ten Angstroms, model FTA 125 Video Contact Angle Analysis System). For each combination of storage temperature/time, three strips were measured for contact angle on the hydrophilic interface between the liner and the film.

Please delete Table 3a on page 20 and replace with the following amended Table 3a:

Table 3a

Example Number	Solvent	Surfactants		Stablilizers	
	IPA/water (wt. %)	Type	Amount (wt. %)	Type	Amount (wt. %)
4	99.60	~~Dynol~~ DYNOL 604	0.30	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10

5	99.60	~~Surfynol~~ SURFYNOL465	0.30	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10
6	99.60	~~Tagat~~ TAGAT L2	0.30	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10
7	99.60	~~Lambent~~ LAMBENT 703	0.30	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10
8	99.15	~~Zonyl~~ ZONYL FSN (40%)	0.75	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10
9	99.60	~~Dynol~~ DYNOL 604	0.30	~~Aerosol™~~ AEROSOL OT (75%)	0.13
10	99.60	~~Dynol~~ DYNOL 604	0.30	FC95	0.10
11	99.57	~~Lambent~~ LAMBENT 703	0.30	~~Aerosol™~~ AEROSOL OT (75%)	0.13
12	99.60	~~Lambent~~ LAMBENT 703	0.30	FC95	0.10
13	99.12	~~Zonyl™~~ ZONYL FSN (40%)	0.75	~~Aerosol™~~ AEROSOL OT (75%)	0.13
Comparative A	99.15	~~Zonyl™~~ ZONYL FSN (40%)	0.75	FC95	0.10
Comparative B	99.70	~~Dynol™~~DYNOL 604	0.30	None	0.00
Comparative C	99.70	~~Surfynol™~~ SURFYNOL 465	0.30	None	0.00
Comparative D	99.70	~~Tagat™~~ TAGAT L2	0.30	None	0.00
Comparative E	99.70	~~Lambent™~~ LAMBENT 703	0.30	None	0.00

Comparative F	99.75	~~Zonyl™~~ ZONYL FSN	0.75	None	0.00
Comparative G	99.87	None	0.00	~~Aerosol~~ AEROSOL OT	0.13
Comparative H	99.90	None	0.00	~~Polystep~~ POLYSTEP A16	0.10
Comparative I	99.90	None	0.00	FC95	0.10